

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/715,420

Examiner

Antonio A. Caschera

Applicant(s)

LEE, KYOUNG-JU

Art Unit

2676

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to afterfinal amendment filed 01/04/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20,23-40,42-44,46-48,51-53 and 55-57.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 01/13/06
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 01/20/06.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed in the pending application.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 01/13/06 was filed after the mailing date of the final office action on 07/22/05. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the Examiner.

Examiner's Amendment

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Samuel Ntiros on 01/20/2006. The contents of the interview can be found in the attached interview summary form.

The application has been amended as follows:

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Listing of Claims

1-19. (Previously Presented)

20. (Currently Amended) An image conversion method, comprising:

converting an M bit-size image into an N bit-size image wherein $M > N$, said converting including for each pixel in the M bit-size image (a) generating first RGB values, (b) determining which color in the image has a greater specific gravity, (c) converting the first RGB values into second RGB values each with lesser bit size, the color with the greater specific gravity allocated with at least one extra bit than the remaining colors in the second RGB values, and (d) combining the second RGB values to form the N bit-size image, wherein said converting includes generating the second RGB values for each pixel so as to allocate a same number of extra bits irrespective of which color in the image has the greater specific gravity.

23-40. (Previously Presented)

42-44. (Previously Presented)

46-48. (Previously Presented)

51-53. (Previously Presented)

55-57. (Previously Presented)

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments, see page 14 of Applicant's Remarks, filed 01/04/06, with respect to the 35 U.S.C 112 2nd paragraph rejection of claims 55-57 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The 35 U.S.C 112 2nd paragraph rejection of claims 55-57 has been withdrawn since antecedent basis has been corrected for in claims 55.

5. Applicant's arguments, see pages 14-15 of Applicant's Remarks, filed 01/04/06, with respect to the prior art rejections of claims 1-20, 23-40, 42-44, 46-48, 51-53 and 55-57 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The prior art rejection of the claims has been withdrawn since previously indicated allowable subject matter has been amended into the independent claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 1-20, 23-40, 42-44, 46-48, 51-53 and 55-57 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In reference to claims 1, 13, 20, 27 and 34, the prior art of record (Yi (U.S. Patent 6,778,187 B1) and Kondo (U.S. Patent 6,556,209 B2)) does not explicitly disclose allocating a same number of extra bits to the color value of shifted RGB color values, irrespective of which one of the RGB color values has the greater specific gravity, in further combination with the claim limitations of claims 1, 13, 20, 27 and 34 respectively.

In reference to claims 2-12, 42-44 and 55-57, claims 2-12, 42-44 and 55-57 depend upon allowable claim 1 and are therefore also deemed allowable.

In reference to claims 14-19 and 46-48, claims 14-19 and 46-48 depend upon allowable claim 13 and are therefore also deemed allowable.

In reference to claims 23-26, claims 23-26 depend upon allowable claim 20 and are therefore also deemed allowable.

In reference to claims 28-33 and 51-53, claims 28-33 and 51-53 depend upon allowable claim 27 and are therefore also deemed allowable.

In reference to claims 35-40, claims 35-40 depend upon allowable claim 34 and are therefore also deemed allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

References Cited

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

- a. North et al. (U.S. Patent 5,854,640)
* North et al. discloses aligning video data in byte arrangements.
- b. Tanaka et al. (U.S. Pub 2003/0198381)
* Tanaka et al. discloses an image coding and compressing method and apparatus for compressing color image data at a high rate factor.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Antonio Caschera whose telephone number is (571) 272-7781. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Thursday and alternate Fridays between 7:30 AM and 5:00 PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Bella, can be reached at (571) 272-7778.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.



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01/23/06

MATTHEW C. BELLA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600